Guide to the Lasartemay Family Papers

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Guide to the Lasartemay Family Papers

Collection number: MS 95

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Lasartemay family papers
Dates: 1946-1995
Collection number: MS 95
Creator: Lasartemay, Eugene P.
Collector: East Bay Negro Historical Society.
Collection Size: .5 linear feet (1 box)
Repository: African American Museum & Library at Oakland (Oakland, Calif.)

Abstract: The Lasartemay family papers include correspondence, essays, funeral and theater programs, invitations, résumés, photographs, and newspapers clippings documenting primarily the family's participation in various civic organizations. The papers are organized in to four series: Eugene P. Lasartemay, Ruth Hackett Lasartemay, Elena R. Lasartemay, and Photographs. The bulk of the papers relate to Eugene P. Lasartemay’s participation in various Oakland area civic organizations including the East Bay Negro Historical Society, Northern California Council of Camera Clubs, and the boy scouts.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
No access restrictions. Collection is open to the public.

Access Restrictions
Materials are for use in-library only, non-circulating.

Publication Rights
Permission to publish from the Lasartemay Family Papers must be obtained from the African American Museum & Library at Oakland.

Preferred Citation
Lasartemay family papers, MS 95, African American Museum & Library at Oakland, Oakland Public Library. Oakland, California.

Processing Information
Processed by Sean Heyliger, 12/07/2013.

Biography / Administrative History

Eugene Pasqual Lasartemay

Eugene Pasqual Lasartemay (1903-1993) was born on May 17, 1903 to Ana Eglesia Adeline Torres de Lasarte and Patricio Lasarte in Kehaha, Kauai, Hawaii. After attending public school in Honolulu, Hawaii, he graduated from Dobie’s Engineering College in San Francisco, California and went on to work as a seaman with the Matson Navigational Company between 1923-1939. In 1937, he earned a First Assistant Engineer’s license, becoming the first licensed black marine engineer to sail from the Port of San Francisco. Following his career as a marine engineer he worked as a life insurance salesman with the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company and also worked for 26 years in the Engineering Department of the
Colgate Palmolive Company before retiring in 1965. He was also active in a number of civic, religious, and historical organizations in Berkeley and Oakland. He was a co-founder of many black organizations in the East Bay including the East Bay Negro Historical Society, Berkeley Branch of the East Bay Lodge #44, Men of Tomorrow, Inc., Colonel Allenworth Historical Park, Berkeley Branch of the NAACP. He was an active member of the boy scouts, serving as a Neighborhood Commissioner and Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop #43 and was awarded the scout's highest honor - the Silver Beaver Award. He served as president of the United Consumers and Producers, East Bay Negro Historical Society, vice president of the East Bay Pensioner's Club of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and the Berkeley Branch of the NAACP, and treasurer of the Fannie Wall Children's Home of Oakland.

**Ruth Hackett Lasartemay**

Ruth Hackett Lasartemay (1902-1991) was born on January 12, 1902 in Alameda, California to Sylvester and Marie Ada Hackett, one of the first African American families in Alameda, California. She attended public schools in Alameda, California and the Berkeley Adult Evening School and worked for 17 years with the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company between 1928-1944. She was active in many civic and women's clubs in Oakland and Berkeley including the California State Association of Colored Women's Club, Inc., National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc., League of Women Voters, South Gate Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, and was a co-founder and the first curator of the East Bay Negro Historical Society.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The Lasartemay family papers include correspondence, essays, funeral and theater programs, invitations, résumés, photographs, and newspapers clippings documenting primarily the family's participation in various civic organizations. The papers are organized in to four series: Eugene P. Lasartemay, Ruth Hackett Lasartemay, Elena R. Lasartemay, and Photographs. The bulk of the papers relate to Eugene P. Lasartemay's participation in various Oakland area civic organizations including the East Bay Negro Historical Society, Northern California Council of Camera Clubs, and the boy scouts. Also included is a copy of Eugene P. Lasartemay's book For Love of Jack London: His Life with Jennie Prentiss – a true love story and court documents related to Exie McDonald's probate court hearing where Lasartemay served as the estate's executor. The biographical subseries includes Eugene P. Lasartemay's résumés, funeral programs from his memorial service, and assorted newspaper clippings related to his involvement in the East Bay Negro Historical Society. The Ruth Hackett Lasartemay series includes her resume, a program for a testimonial reception at the Church of the Good Shepard in her honor, and historical notes on a property at Hetch Hetchy. The Elena R. Lasartemay series includes a child's sketch, an essay titled, "Why we celebrate Negro History Week," and a theater program for a production of Lost in the Stars at the New Day Theatre.

**Arrangement**

Series I. Eugene P. Lasartemay Series II. Ruth Lasartemay Series III. Elena Lasartemay Series IV. Photographs

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Lasartemay, Eugene P.

Links, Inc. Oakland Bay Area Chapter.

East Bay Negro Historical Society

Black History Week.

African American families--California--Oakland.

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**Eugene P. Lasartemay**

Physical Description: 8 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

Includes biographical material about Eugene P. Lasartemay such as resumes, newspaper clippings, and funeral service program and correspondence, programs, and invitations of various civic organizations in Oakland for which he was an active member. Also contains a speech delivered by Lasartemay to the East Bay Negro Historical Society on the Bicentennial celebration in 1976.

Arrangement

Arranged into four subseries: Biographical, Civic organizations, Historical research, and Exie McDonald probate court hearing.
## Biographical

| Box 1:1 | Résumés 1978-1980 |
| Box 1:2 | Newspaper clippings 1962-1993 |
| Box 1:3 | Program [3 copies] 1993 |
| Box 1:3 | Rev. J. Alfred Smith Sr. letter of condolence 1993 |
| Box 1:11 | Autograph book 1946-1979 |
| Box 1:13 | California State Assembly proclamation 1993 |

## Civic organizations

| Box 1:4 | Acorn Camera Club invitation 1979 |
| Box 1:4 | Berkeley Branch of the NAACP membership reminder letter undated |
| Box 1:4 | 1st annual Black Engineering and Science Students Association awards banquet program 1977 |
| Box 1:4 | Boy scouts |
| Box 1:6 | “A tribute to Mr. Eugene P. Lasartemay,” circa 1990 |
| Box 1:4 | In honor of Eugene P. Lasartemay scout master program 1990 |
| Box 1:12 | Badges and ribbons 1947-1969 |

### East Bay Negro Historical Society

| Box 1:4 | Flyer 1966 |
| Box 1:6 | East Bay French American Bilingual School, Jan Sell’s 5th grade class thank you letters after visiting the East Bay Negro Historical Society 1984 |
| Box 1:4 | Resolution commending Eugene Pasqual Lasartemay circa 1980s |
| Box 1:4 | Invitation to celebrate 55th wedding anniversary of Eugene and Ruth Lasartemay 1984 |
| Box 1:4 | Letter from Mrs. Calvin McDonald, President of Oakland - Bay Area Chapter of Links, Inc., re: donation to the East Bay Negro Historical Society 1975 |
| Box 1:4 | Photograph of Mrs. Beth Wilson presenting Links, Inc. check to Eugene P. Lasartemay, president of the East Bay Negro Historical Society 1976 |
| Box 1:4 | East Bay Pensioners’ Club meeting minutes February 21, 1978 |
| Box 1:4 | National Daughters of the American Revolution, Chief Solano Chapter yearbook 1979 |

### Northern California Council of Camera Clubs

| Box 1:4 | Annual awards dinner program 1979 |
| Box 1:4 | Annual awards dinner program 1981 |

### Oakland - Bay Area Chapter of Links

| Box 1:4 | Invitation to 1964 cotillion 1964 |
| Box 1:4 | Invitation to 1976 cotillion 1976 |
| Box 1:4 | Invitation to 1977 cotillion 1977 |
| Box 1:5 | Cotillion programs 1964, 1969, 1995 |
| Box 1:4 | San Francisco Chapter of Links, Inc., letter for private viewing of Treasures of King Tut exhibit 1979 |

## Historical research

| Box 1:6 | Letter from Barry Silverman, Research Director of the International Longshoremen’s & Warehousemen’s Union, re: Negros in the ILWU 1973 |
Exie McDonald probate court hearing

Ruth Hackett Lasartemay

Physical Description: 1 folder
Series Scope and Content Summary
Includes Ruth Lasartemay's resume, a program of a testimonial appreciation reception at the Church of the Good Shepard, and research notes on a property at Hetch Hetchy.

Arrangement
Arranged by format.

Box 1:9
Résumé 1978
Box 1:9
Church of the Good Shepard testimonial reception in appreciation of Ruth Elena Lasartemay 1964
Box 1:9
For research Hetch Hetchy property 1969

Elena R. Lasartemay

Physical Description: 1 folder
Series Scope and Content Summary
Includes Elena Lasartemay's art sketch as a child, essay titled, “Why we observe Negro History Week,” and program for the play “Lost in the Stars” presented at the New Day Theatre.

Arrangement
Arranged by format.

Box 1:10
Child’s art sketch undated
Box 1:10
“Why we observe Negro History Week” essay 1965
Box 1:10
The New Day Theatre presents “Lost in the Stars” program undated

Photographs

Physical Description: 1 folder
Series Scope and Content Summary
Includes five photographs of the Eugene, Ruth, and Elena Lasartemay.

Arrangement
Arranged by photograph identification number.

Box 1:14
Ruth Lasartemay standing in front of house at 1399 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, California [001] 1961
Box 1:14
3rd assistant engineer Eugene Lasartemay on board the Matson S.S. Manini [002] undated
Box 1:14
Eugene and Ruth Lasartemay shaking hands with Kenneth Goodman [003] 1955
Box 1:14
Elena Ruth Lasartemay holding B.S.C.A. student essay contest trophy and check [004] 1963
Box 1:12
Eugene Lasartemay clipping hedge next to house [005] circa 1960s
Box 1:12
Identification card portrait of Eugene Lasartemay [006] circa 1930s